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Level 3

Falling insect numbers dangerous to humans

28th July, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

The number of insects in the world has fallen by 45 per cent in the past 35 years. Scientists say this could be dangerous for humans. A report on insect numbers has been published in the journal 'Science'. It says the human population has doubled since 1980 while the number of insects has nearly halved. One of the biggest reasons for this loss of insects is deforestation. Many of the places where insects live are disappearing because of new cities and land being used for farming. Another reason is global warming. Scientists say that in the UK, the number of beetles, butterflies, bees and wasps has fallen by up to 60 per cent. Many countries are worried about the disappearance of bees and butterflies.

Scientists say the decline in insect populations will lead to many problems for humans. One of the biggest dangers is that there will be fewer insects to pollinate flowers. This means that farmers will have problems growing food. The lead author of the report, professor Rodolfo Dirzo, said falling numbers of insects could also lead to more disease in humans. He said rats and mice would have less food to eat so they will move to cities and bring diseases with them. Dr Ben Collen from London University said we needed to stop more insects from dying. He added that scientists must understand, "what species are winning and losing in the fight for survival". He said this knowledge would help us to protect the "helpful" insects.

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/wildlife/10989198/Creepy-crawlies-decline-as-human-population-soars.html>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2704973/Insect-population-45-just-35-years-Scientists-fear-drop-harm-planet-vital-role-play.html#ixzz38XUJsEL2>
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/end-world-predicted-scientists-who-3913927#ixzz38XUjx9pp>

WARM-UPS

1. INSECTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about insects. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

insects / dangerous / report / published / reasons / deforestation / global warming / decline / populations / flowers / diseases / species / winning / knowledge / survival

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. BUGS: How helpful are these bugs? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How useful?	What do they do?
Bees		
Spiders		
Ants		
Butterflies		
Worms		
Spiders		

4. SQUASH: Students A **strongly** believe we should never squash or kill any insects; Students B **strongly** believe it's OK to kill an insect. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. FAVOURITES: Rank these with your partner. Put your favourite insects at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- ants
- spiders
- ladybirds (ladybugs)
- butterflies
- bees
- dragonflies
- worms
- grasshoppers

6. BUTTERFLY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "butterfly". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. The number of insects fell by 35% in the past 45 years. | T / F |
| b. A report was published in the science journal "Insects Today". | T / F |
| c. The number of people on Earth has doubled since 1980. | T / F |
| d. Bee and butterfly populations fell by up to 60% in the UK. | T / F |
| e. There could be problems with insects not pollinating flowers. | T / F |
| f. A professor said fewer insects would mean fewer diseases for humans. | T / F |
| g. A fall in the number of insects would mean rats leaving cities. | T / F |
| h. Scientists need to know which insects are winning the fight for survival. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. fallen | a. difficulties |
| 2. humans | b. agriculture |
| 3. disappearing | c. prevent |
| 4. farming | d. people |
| 5. worried | e. safeguard |
| 6. lead to | f. concerned |
| 7. problems | g. dropped |
| 8. author | h. result in |
| 9. stop | i. writer |
| 10. protect | j. vanishing |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. fallen by 45 per cent | a. insects has nearly halved |
| 2. It says the human population has | b. warming |
| 3. the number of | c. diseases with them |
| 4. Another reason is global | d. doubled since 1980 |
| 5. worried about the | e. for survival |
| 6. fewer insects to pollinate | f. in the past 35 years |
| 7. farmers will have problems | g. the helpful insects |
| 8. move to cities and bring | h. growing food |
| 9. losing in the fight | i. disappearance of bees |
| 10. help us to protect | j. flowers |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

The (1) _____ of insects in the world has fallen by 45 per cent in the past 35 years. Scientists say this could be (2) _____ for humans. A report on insect numbers has been published in the (3) _____ 'Science'. It says the human population has doubled since 1980 while the number of insects has nearly (4) _____. One of the biggest reasons for this (5) _____ of insects is deforestation. Many of the places where insects live are disappearing because of new cities and (6) _____ being used for farming. Another reason is global warming. Scientists say that in the UK, the number of beetles, butterflies, bees and (7) _____ has fallen by up to 60 per cent. Many countries are worried about the (8) _____ of bees and butterflies.

journal
land
wasps
dangerous
loss
number
disappearance
halved

Scientists say the (9) _____ in insect populations will lead to many problems for humans. One of the biggest dangers is that there will be fewer insects to (10) _____ flowers. This means that farmers will have problems (11) _____ food. The lead author of the report, professor Rodolfo Dirzo, said falling numbers of insects could also lead to more (12) _____ in humans. He said rats and mice would have less food to eat so they will move to (13) _____ and bring diseases with them. Dr Ben Collen from London University said we needed to stop more insects from (14) _____. He added that scientists must understand, "what species are winning and (15) _____ in the fight for survival". He said this knowledge would help us to (16) _____ the "helpful" insects.

disease
protect
cities
losing
pollinate
decline
dying
growing

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

- 1) The number of insects in the world has fallen by 45 per cent in the _____
 - a. passed 35 years
 - b. past 35 years
 - c. parsed 35 years
 - d. post 35 years
- 2) Scientists say this could be dangerous _____
 - a. four humans
 - b. fore humans
 - c. for humans
 - d. ford humans
- 3) It says the human population has _____
 - a. double since 1980
 - b. double it since 1980
 - c. dub all since 1980
 - d. doubled since 1980
- 4) disappearing because of new cities and land being _____
 - a. useful for farming
 - b. used four farming
 - c. uses for farming
 - d. used for farming
- 5) Many countries are worried about the disappearance of _____
 - a. bees and butterflies
 - b. bees in butterflies
 - c. bees then butterflies
 - d. bees an butterflies
- 6) the decline in insect populations will lead to many _____
 - a. problem for humans
 - b. problems four humans
 - c. problems for humans
 - d. problem four humans
- 7) there will be fewer insects to _____
 - a. pollinate flowers
 - b. pollinated flowers
 - c. pollinates flowers
 - d. pollinating flowers
- 8) falling numbers of insects could also lead to more _____
 - a. diseased in humans
 - b. disease in human
 - c. disease in humans
 - d. diseased in human
- 9) what species are winning and losing in the _____
 - a. fights for survival
 - b. fight for survival
 - c. fight from survival
 - d. fight form survival
- 10) He said this knowledge would help us to protect _____
 - a. then helpful insects
 - b. the helpful insects
 - c. them helpful insects
 - d. these helpful insects

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

The number of insects in the (1) _____ 45 per cent in the past 35 years. Scientists say this could (2) _____ humans. A report on insect numbers has been published in the journal 'Science'. It says the human population (3) _____ 1980 while the number of insects has nearly halved. One of the biggest reasons for this loss of insects is deforestation. Many (4) _____ insects live are disappearing because of new cities and land being used for farming. Another reason (5) _____. Scientists say that in the UK, the number of beetles, butterflies, bees and wasps has fallen by up to 60 per cent. Many countries are worried about (6) _____ bees and butterflies.

Scientists (7) _____ insect populations will lead to many problems for humans. One of the biggest dangers is that there will be fewer insects (8) _____. This means that farmers will have problems growing food. The lead author of the report, professor Rodolfo Dirzo, said falling numbers of insects could (9) _____ disease in humans. He said rats and mice would have less food to eat so they (10) _____ bring diseases with them. Dr Ben Collen from London University said we needed to stop more insects from dying. He added that scientists must understand, "what (11) _____ and losing in the fight for survival". He said this knowledge would help us to protect (12) _____.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

1. By how much has the insect population fallen over the past 35 years?

2. What is the name of the journal with the report on insects?

3. What has happened to the human population since 1980?

4. What is land that insects used to live on being used for?

5. What insects are countries worried about disappearing?

6. What won't insects be able to do to flowers?

7. What will farmers have problems doing?

8. What will rats and mice bring with them to cities?

9. What did a doctor say we needed to stop?

10. What did a doctor say knowledge would help us do?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

1. By how much has the insect population fallen over the past 35 years?
 - a) 25%
 - b) 35%
 - c) 45%
 - d) 55%
2. What is the name of the journal with the report on insects?
 - a) "Science"
 - b) "Earth"
 - c) "Insects Today"
 - d) "Bees and Butterflies"
3. What has happened to the human population since 1980?
 - a) it has increased by 10%
 - b) it has doubled
 - c) it has stayed the same
 - d) it has trebled
4. What is land that insects used to live on being used for?
 - a) research
 - b) shopping malls
 - c) roads
 - d) farming
5. What insects are countries worried about disappearing?
 - a) grasshoppers
 - b) ants
 - c) bees
 - d) mosquitos
6. What won't insects be able to do to flowers?
 - a) look at them
 - b) pollinate them
 - c) live in them
 - d) eat them
7. What will farmers have problems doing?
 - a) killing pests
 - b) preparing land
 - c) making money
 - d) growing food
8. What will rats and mice bring with them to cities?
 - a) dirt
 - b) diseases
 - c) insects
 - d) fleas
9. What did a doctor say we needed to stop?
 - a) too much farming
 - b) insects dying
 - c) pesticides
 - d) development
10. What did a doctor say knowledge would help us do?
 - a) protect insects
 - b) grow more food
 - c) breed insects
 - d) create new insects

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

Role A – Ants

You think ants are the most important bugs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their bug isn't so interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): spiders, butterflies or bees.

Role B – Spiders

You think spiders are the most important bugs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their bug isn't so interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): ants, butterflies or bees.

Role C – Butterflies

You think butterflies are the most important bugs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their bug isn't so interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): spiders, ants or bees.

Role D – Bees

You think bees are the most important bugs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their bug isn't so interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): spiders, butterflies or ants.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'insect' and 'bug'.

insect	bug

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• past• report• 1980• cities• 60• worried	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• decline• flowers• growing• mice• stop• protect
--	---

BUGS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bugs in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

BUGS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'insect'?
- c) What's your favourite insect?
- d) What do you think of the fact that so many insects have gone?
- e) Why could it be dangerous if many insects disappear?
- f) How useful are ants?
- g) Should governments start projects to increase insect numbers?
- h) Why would global warming harm insects?
- i) What insect do you dislike most?
- j) Why are many people afraid of insects?

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BUGS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Why are bees so useful?
- c) Do you kill an insect if one is in your house?
- d) Should children learn more about how important insects are?
- e) Why aren't governments doing more to protect animals?
- f) What would you do if there were lots of rats in your area?
- g) What are the most useful insects in the world?
- h) Spiders are not insects. Why not?
- i) What would happen to the world if all the bugs died?
- j) What questions would you like to ask an insect expert?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

The number of insects in the world has (1) _____ by 45 per cent in the past 35 years. Scientists say this could be dangerous for humans. A report on insect numbers has been published in the (2) _____ 'Science'. It says the human population has (3) _____ since 1980 while the number of insects has nearly halved. One of the biggest reasons for this (4) _____ of insects is deforestation. Many of the places where insects live are disappearing because of new cities and land (5) _____ used for farming. Another reason is global warming. Scientists say that in the UK, the number of beetles, butterflies, bees and wasps has fallen (6) _____ up to 60 per cent. Many countries are worried about the disappearance of bees and butterflies.

Scientists say the decline in insect populations will lead to many problems for humans. One of the biggest dangers is that there will be fewer insects to (7) _____ flowers. This means that farmers will have problems (8) _____ food. The lead author of the report, professor Rodolfo Dirzo, said falling numbers of insects could also lead to more disease (9) _____ humans. He said rats and mice would have less food to eat so they will move to cities and bring diseases with (10) _____. Dr Ben Collen from London University said we needed to stop more insects from (11) _____. He added that scientists must understand, "what species are winning and losing in the fight for survival". He said this knowledge would help (12) _____ to protect the "helpful" insects.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) fell | (b) fallen | (c) falls | (d) falling |
| 2. | (a) magazine | (b) book | (c) Internet | (d) journal |
| 3. | (a) upped | (b) doubled | (c) heightened | (d) downed |
| 4. | (a) lass | (b) lose | (c) loss | (d) less |
| 5. | (a) being | (b) been | (c) be | (d) bees |
| 6. | (a) by | (b) at | (c) to | (d) for |
| 7. | (a) dilute | (b) decorate | (c) accent | (d) pollinate |
| 8. | (a) growing | (b) grows | (c) grown | (d) growth |
| 9. | (a) by | (b) in | (c) at | (d) of |
| 10. | (a) her | (b) all | (c) them | (d) speed |
| 11. | (a) death | (b) dead | (c) dying | (d) dies |
| 12. | (a) we | (b) us | (c) me | (d) you |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

Paragraph 1

1. sescitsitn say this could be dangerous
2. dpbhueisl in the journal 'Science'
3. the human population has elbodud
4. the number of insects has nearly elvhad
5. Another aneros is global warming
6. worried about the darcenaaepsip of bees

Paragraph 2

7. the ceeilnd in insect populations
8. fewer insects to tpaleilno flowers
9. The lead tarhou of the report
10. lead to more sdesaie in humans
11. what csepsie are winning and losing
12. help us to orettpc the "helpful" insects

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () more insects from dying. He added that scientists must understand, "what species
- () where insects live are disappearing because of new cities and land being used for farming. Another reason is global
- () 'Science'. It says the human population has doubled since 1980 while the number of insects has nearly
- () halved. One of the biggest reasons for this loss of insects is deforestation. Many of the places
- () of insects could also lead to more disease in humans. He said rats and mice would have less food to eat so they will move
- () to cities and bring diseases with them. Dr Ben Collen from London University said we needed to stop
- () be dangerous for humans. A report on insect numbers has been published in the journal
- () problems growing food. The lead author of the report, professor Rodolfo Dirzo, said falling numbers
- () dangers is that there will be fewer insects to pollinate flowers. This means that farmers will have
- () wasps has fallen by up to 60 per cent. Many countries are worried about the disappearance of bees and butterflies.
- () are winning and losing in the fight for survival". He said this knowledge would help us to protect the "helpful" insects.
- () warming. Scientists say that in the UK, the number of beetles, butterflies, bees and
- (**1**) The number of insects in the world has fallen by 45 per cent in the past 35 years. Scientists say this could
- () Scientists say the decline in insect populations will lead to many problems for humans. One of the biggest

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

1. of the fallen number in has The insects world.

2. be could humans this for say dangerous Scientists.

3. human doubled the has 1980 says population since It.

4. for and farming land being New used cities.

5. the Countries disappearance are of worried bees about.

6. insects There to will pollinate be flowers fewer.

7. food means will growing This farmers problems that have.

8. disease Falling numbers of insects could also lead to more.

9. so they will move Mice would have less food to eat .

10. would to helpful Knowledge us the help protect insects.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

The number of insects in the world has *falling* / *fallen* by 45 per cent in the past 35 years. Scientists say this could be dangerous for *humans* / *beings*. A report on insect *number* / *numbers* has been published in the journal 'Science'. It says the human population has *doubled* / *doubles* since 1980 while the number of insects has nearly *halves* / *halved*. One of the biggest reasons for this loss of insects is *deforestation* / *reforestation*. Many of the places where insects live are *disappearing* / *disappearance* because of new cities and land being *used* / *using* for farming. Another reason is global warming. Scientists say that in the UK, the number of beetles, butterflies, bees and *wasp* / *wasps* has fallen by up to 60 per cent. Many countries are worried *for* / *about* the disappearance of bees and butterflies.

Scientists say the *decline* / *recline* in insect populations will lead to *much* / *many* problems for humans. One of the biggest dangers is that there will be *fewer* / *less* insects to pollinate flowers. This means that farmers will have problems *growth* / *growing* food. The *lead* / *leader* author of the report, professor Rodolfo Dirzo, said falling numbers of insects could also lead to more disease in humans. He said rats and *mouse* / *mice* would have less food to eat so they will *moving* / *move* to cities and bring diseases with them. Dr Ben Collen from London University said we needed to stop more insects *from* / *for* dying. He added that scientists must understand, "what species are winning and *losers* / *losing* in the fight for survival". He said this knowledge would help us to *protect* / *protecting* the "helpful" insects.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

Th_ n_mb_r _f _ns_cts _n th_ w_rld h_s f_ll_n by 45 p_r c_nt _n th_ p_st 35 y_rs. Sc__nt_sts s_y th_s c__ld b_ d_ng_r__s f_r h_m_ns. _r_p_rt _n _ns_ct n_mb_rs h_s b__n p_bl_sh_d _n th_ j__rn_l 'Sc__nc_'. _t s_y th_ h_m_n p_p_l_t _n h_s d__bl_d s_nc_ 1980 wh_l th_ n_mb_r _f _ns_cts h_s n__rly h_lv_d. _n _f th_ b_gg_st r__s_ns f_r th_s l_ss _f _ns_cts _s d_f_r_st_t__n. M_ny _f th_ pl_c_s wh_r _ns_cts l_v _r d_s pp__r ng b_c__s _f n_w c_t__s _nd l_nd b__ng _s_d f_r f_rm_ng. _n th_r r__s_n _s gl_b_l w_rm_ng. Sc__nt_sts s_y th_t _n th_ _K, th_ n_mb_r _f b__tl_s, b_tt_rfl__s, b__s _nd w_sps h_s f_ll_n by _p t_ 60 p_r c_nt. M_ny c__ntr__s _r w_rr__d b__t th_ d_s pp__r_nc_ _f b__s _nd b_tt_rfl__s.

Sc__nt_sts s_y th_ d_cl_n_ _n _ns_ct p_p_l_t__ns w_ll l__d t_ m_ny pr_bl_ms f_r h_m_ns. _n _f th_ b_gg_st d_ng_rs _s th_t th_r_ w_ll b_ f_w_r _ns_cts t_p_ll_n_t fl_w_rs. Th_s m__ns th_t f_rm_rs w_ll h_v pr_bl_ms gr_w_ng f__d. Th_ l__d __th_r _f th_ r_p_rt, pr_f_ss_r R_d_lf_ D_rz_, s__d f_ll ng n_mb_rs _f _ns_cts c__ld _ls_ l__d t_ m_r d_s__s _n h_m_ns. H_s__d r_ts _nd m_c_ w__ld h_v l_ss f__d t_ __t s_ th_y w_ll m_v_ t_ c_t__s _nd br ng d_s__s_s w_th th_m. Dr B_n C_ll_n fr_m L_nd_n _n v_rs_ty s__d w_n__d_d t_ st_p m_r _ns_cts fr_m dy_ng. H_ _dd_d th_t sc__nt_sts m_st _nd_rst_nd, "wh_t sp_c__s _r_w_nn ng _nd l_s ng _n th_ f_ght f_r s_rv_v_l". H_s__d th_s kn_wl_dg_ w__ld h_lp _s t_ pr_t_ct th_ "h_lpf_l" _ns_cts.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

the number of insects in the world has fallen by 45 per cent in the past 35 years scientists say this could be dangerous for humans a report on insect numbers has been published in the journal 'science' it says the human population has doubled since 1980 while the number of insects has nearly halved one of the biggest reasons for this loss of insects is deforestation many of the places where insects live are disappearing because of new cities and land being used for farming another reason is global warming scientists say that in the uk the number of beetles butterflies bees and wasps has fallen by up to 60 per cent many countries are worried about the disappearance of bees and butterflies

scientists say the decline in insect populations will lead to many problems for humans one of the biggest dangers is that there will be fewer insects to pollinate flowers this means that farmers will have problems growing food the lead author of the report professor rodolfo dirzo said falling numbers of insects could also lead to more disease in humans he said rats and mice would have less food to eat so they will move to cities and bring diseases with them dr ben collen from london university said we needed to stop more insects from dying he added that scientists must understand "what species are winning and losing in the fight for survival" he said this knowledge would help us to protect the "helpful" insects

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

The number of insects in the world has fallen by 45 percent in the past 35 years. Scientists say this could be dangerous for humans. A report on insect numbers has been published in the journal 'Science'. It says the human population has doubled since 1980 while the number of insects has nearly halved. One of the biggest reasons for this loss of insects is deforestation. Many of the places where insects live are disappearing because of new cities and land being used for farming. Another reason is global warming. Scientists say that in the UK, the number of beetles, butterflies, bees and wasps has fallen by up to 60 percent. Many countries are worried about the disappearance of bees and butterflies. Scientists say the decline in insect populations will lead to many problems for humans. One of the biggest dangers is that there will be fewer insects to pollinate flowers. This means that farmers will have problems growing food. The lead author of the report, professor Rodolfo Dirzo, said falling numbers of insects could also lead to more disease in humans. He said rats and mice would have less food to eat so they will move to cities and bring diseases with them. Dr Ben Collen from London University said we needed to stop more insects from dying. He added that scientists must understand, "what species are winning and losing in the fight for survival". He said this knowledge would help to protect the "helpful" insects.

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

Write about **bugs** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140728-bugs.html>

Which are more helpful, bees or ants? Which do you like better? Why?

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about what problems there will be with falling numbers of bugs. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BUGS: Make a poster about bugs. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. DISAPPEARING INSECTS: Write a magazine article about the disappearing insects. Include imaginary interviews with people who are worried and with people who know how to help the insects.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on bugs. Ask him/her three questions about bugs. Give him/her three of your ideas. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b F c T d T e T f F g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. fallen | a. dropped |
| 2. humans | b. people |
| 3. disappearing | c. vanishing |
| 4. farming | d. agriculture |
| 5. worried | e. concerned |
| 6. lead to | f. result in |
| 7. problems | g. difficulties |
| 8. author | h. writer |
| 9. stop | i. prevent |
| 10. protect | j. safeguard |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. 45%
2. "Science"
3. It has doubled
4. Farming
5. Bees and Butterflies
6. Pollinate them
7. Growing food
8. Diseases
9. Insects dying
10. Protect insects

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. d 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. b 9. b 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)